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NPIC/TSSG/DED-1598-69
23 April 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, PPBS, NPIC

THROUGH : Chief, Technical Services & Support Group, NPIC
Chief, Projects & Programs Staff, TSSG

SUBJECT : Comments on ORD Research & Development Project Abstracts

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REFERENCE : [] Cy. 1, dated 16 Apr 69, BDI-1063-69

1. In response to a request from [] DDI Planning Staff--forwarded through you--we have quickly reviewed the abstracts of ORD R search & Development Projects to determine if there is any overlap with NPIC efforts and whether or not we were currently aware of these programs.

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2. We were, for the most part, aware of the various efforts referenced; however, it is difficult to fully determine this since the descriptions of the projects are in the main quite nebulous. For example, we may be aware of the work, but not under that title or in relationship to that specific description. In only one case, Item 6, is there an item in which there would appear to be a firm possibility of some duplication. It must be realized that because of the Center's recent emphasis on short-term, quick pay-off, equipment oriented projects and because of our restricted budgets that a R&D vacuum has developed in some of these areas. It is only natural that ORD has moved into some of these areas in their search for solid requirements. An analysis of the specific items is as follows:

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Item 1 -- Airborne Sensors - We were aware of a part of this effort via briefings given by [] of DDS&T and through briefings by [] of TSSG. The program deals with acquisition and, of course, does not duplicate anything we are doing; however, it does have impact upon our future exploitation developments, and as such, we will continue to stay cognizant of this project.

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Item 2 -- Advanced Feasibility - We were aware of some work in this area. [] a member of our Development & Engineering Division, has an appointment to discuss some of this research with the principal investigator [] on 14 May. The research is somewhat related to informal TSSG/APSD efforts with regard to color and black and white presentations. Again, this item is directed more towards acquisition than toward exploitation and, as such, there is no significant overlap at this time.

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Item 4 -- Pattern Recognition - We are generally aware of the research in this area. There is an obvious relationship to our own Automatic Recognition Programs. However, ORD's efforts in this area are much more theoretical than our work. Of course, their efforts in facial photographs, fingerprints, and handwriting samples, postal catches, etc. are only generally related to our efforts, while, their work on aerial photography has been somewhat limited to date. Mainly their efforts have dealt with photography of lower resolution and lower quality than the sophisticated imagery which we must normally address ourselves to. This could, however, become an area of overlap in the future.

Item 5 -- Optical Processing - It is difficult to tell to what extent we are aware of this work because of the wording of the abstract. Part of it looks like the work previously performed by [redacted] with which we are quite familiar and, while there currently appears to be no overlap in this area, in the future, when they get into "image enhancement," "intensity contouring," and "transformation manipulations developed for applications to raw intelligence imagery," it is possible that there could be a direct conflict and overlap with our own Image Analysis efforts.

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Item 6 -- Graphic Data Processing - "Work is proceeding in the IPRD facilities to develop methods to scan aerial photographs automatically and to tag those frames that have substantial cloud cover." If this quote is correct, this is a project we were not aware of. We knew that OSP was working on a device but we were not aware that ORD had moved into this area. We will check in attempt to obtain more detail. This would appear to duplicate work already underway in FY-68 and FY-69 under our Automatic Target Recognition Program. ORD has been kept cognizant of our program.

Item 7 -- Human Engineering - This would appear to be a redirection of [redacted] work in psychopictorics. We were quite aware of her previous efforts and there was no duplication; however, this redirected effort could create some overlap particularly in the areas of "judging screen quality" and "tracking signal degradation through the system." It depends upon whether they are talking about digital or optical display systems. However, it is extremely difficult to determine anything of significance from the wording of the abstract. We will have to talk to [redacted] and attempt to clarify this issue in the near future.

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Chief, Development & Engineering Division, TSSG

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